

Friends of the Dunes Board Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2009, Humboldt Coastal Nature Center, 7-9pm

Board Members: Bill Weaver, John St. Marie, Tamara Gedik, Marj Fay, Nancy Ihara, Dave Weinstein, Lisa Hoover, Matt Johnson, Mike Seeber, Rose Patenaude **Staff:** Carol Vander Meer, Suzie Fortner **Public:** Uri Driscoll, Carrie Schlick, Mary Barber and ?

November Agenda

- I. Introduction of guests present
- II. Approval of minutes
- III. Approval of moving December meeting from 1st to 15th
- IV. Public input
- V. Draft Trails Plan
- VI. Updated Board Room
- VII. Board Retreat Summary
- VIII. HCNC project Update
- IX. Manila Update
- X. Financials
- XI. Comments/Questions on Committee Reports
- XII. Upcoming events
- XIII. Upcoming agenda items

I. Introduction of Guests

Carrie Shlick, Uri Driscoll, Mary Barker (another woman walked in later and did not share name) all guests are equestrians concerned about trails plan

II. Approval of Minutes

September - John St. Marie motioned for approval of September, 2009 minutes, 2nd from Dave. All present in favor, September 2009 minutes approved.
October – Nancy Ihara motioned for approval of October, 2009 minutes, 2nd from Mike Seeber. All present in favor, October 2009 minutes approved.

III. Approval of moving December meeting from 1st to 15th

Nancy Ihara motioned for approval of moving December, 2009 meeting from Dec 1st to Dec 15th, Matt Johnson 2^{nds}. All present in favor, moving of December meeting approved.

IV. Public Input

Uri reports inconsistencies in trails report (by HSU students).

(Carol clarifies that some student suggestions were used but all, this is not the draft trail plan, it has not yet been approved.)

An email with this list was distributed to the board, he also brought copies to distribute.

Brief summary of Uri's concerns

- Existing map does not include all trails;
- HSU students never interviewed us (equestrians) although views are represented in this document (John St. Marie explains that the students represented views expressed in a previous board meeting)
- Nothing specifically stated for safety concerns
- Connecting trails with existing trails
- Considering and honoring the historical uses of these trails (page 25 of document)
- Trail erosion from horses, pedestrians use these trails also and horse riders do not want to be blamed for erosion they may not be causing

- Sensitive area, what exactly does this mean? How do you define?
- Tsunami evacuation zone should extend all the way to BLM land. Horses and riders could be a huge asset for evacuation by riding beaches and trails to inform people
- What agencies will be reviewing this trail plan?
- Conclusion: Use of horses in dune environment is consistent with conservation and the public enjoys seeing and petting horses on trails. Horse users invite us (FOD) to honor their use in this environment.

Carrie – are there alternatives to this plan? (Carol explains that we will discuss changes to the plan, but there is only one version.)

Would like us to consider including the high trail and is concerned because the Manila (MCSD?) trail plan did not originally consider this trail and adding it to the plan was a difficult process. The trail has historic uses, including patrolling by the US Coast Guard. It provides linear distance which is important to horse riders, and there is a lot of community support for adopting this high trail in our plan.

V. Draft Trails Plan (presented by John St. Marie)

Introduction of process

- started in March, 2 information sharing meetings with community , involvement of HSU Natural Resources Planning Students. Started with draft policies, and now we have a draft trails plan. Most trails are on South portion of property; we are working with BLM to create trails to the North.
- Carol clarifies why Draft trails and Future Consideration trails are so different, we cannot approve trails on other's land. Future Consideration trails will be a big planning process and require time. A portion of main trail goes through private property now because we have an agreement with the Stamps family.
- Nancy points out orange areas are current wallflower habitat

Comments/Suggestions

Horse access on southern portion of ridge trail?

- Bill points out the southern portion of ridge trail (currently no horse access) is connected to a horse access trail coming from Lupine parcel/MCSD land
- There was considerable discussion about the last segment of the ridge trail off Lupin Drive, which is known to be widely used by equestrians accessing the beach from an adjacent private property. The trails committee originally felt that it should not be designated equestrian since there has been no agreement with the adjacent land owner about equestrian access. However, it was decided in the end that the last segment should be equestrian access, with a sign indicating that equestrian access dead ends.

Bill

- 1st pg, 2nd paragraph - should there be something about restoration? (Carol believes this is included in habitat conservation)
- Pg 3, #2&3 – Redundant? (Carol says these are all copied straight from policies)
- Pg 5 – except Wildberries Trail

Lisa

- Concerned about dogs off leash (but under voice control) on lateral trails, brings up papers circulated by Emily about dogs, even on leash, affecting wildlife. Criteria for trail selection should include something about possible restoration

Carol Public appreciates handmade wooden signs, should keep visual impact of signage minimal

Dave Concerned about dog owner etiquette, suggests reminder signage for leashes and clean-up

Foredune trial

- Uri wonders about considerations for horse access on foredune trail
- Carol emphasizes the further analysis for future inclusions, suggests organizing a group outing to take a look at this trail
- Uri inquires why this must be a future consideration and can't be included now?
- John reiterates that this needs more consideration before approval
- Nancy has been confused by language of high ridge trail which we know as foredunes
- Carrie says she distributed a Google Earth map with these trial names marked at an earlier meeting (no one seems to recall this map)
- Conclusion – foredune trail is of concern, it is a priority on future considerations

Please send all comments/suggestions to Carol ASAP

Unanimous Approval of Draft Trail Plan with suggested edits and changes. Carol will re-circulate to the board.

VI. Updated Board Room

Some people are confused by Wiggió's folder system, but will try it out for another month because it makes Steven's life easier. Dave suggests a master folder for each meeting.

VII. Retreat Summary

Carol has uploaded minutes. Tony volunteered, thank you card distributed and approval to include Arcata Artisans gift certificate. Follow-up on the retreat will be added to the December agenda.

VIII. HCNC Project Update (Carol)

- Staff is moving to Samoa Women's Club
- We are still missing permit, should be happening soon.
- Eucalyptus gone! SWAP taking big logs. Decision to offer the rest as a donation to Marty at Manila Rec for possible fundraising
- Tires are coming off soon
- Laura K. (project manager) is doing a great job. Reality Check – we still have a funding gap which will need to be addressed through cost reduction and fundraising.

IX. MCSD update

- Dan Edrich is suing MCSD about hazards to property. MCSD is considering settling, which might curtail restoration at the Manila Dunes. The lawsuit is based on problematic language in coastal permit, among other issues.
- Carol inquires if we should renew our expired contract? POSTPONED
- Nancy wonders if FOD should offer letter for MCSD?
- Lisa will write a letter - not commenting on complaint but encouraging to look at science and facts, we can offer opinions from experts. By Thursday November 12th – Carol will review.

X. Financials

- November not August

- Coast Central denied grant
- \$10K for Bay to Dunes through Nature of Learning Grant
- We got another (literally) big check from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

XI. Questions on Committee Reports

None

XII. Upcoming Events

- FOD Move November 19-25
- Holiday Party at Samoa Women's Club, December 6th 5-8pm
- Public Meeting November 17th, 5:30-7, w/moderator

Announcements

Lisa – we joined National Commission of land Trusts – drafted MOU to further organize.

Need to contribute \$50/year. MOU will be on Wiggiio.

Carol – Shared \$25K for restoration through a partnership with Pacific Coast Joint Venture and funding from the North American Wetlands Act.

What needs a Board Vote?

- Check Bylaws – Definitely fiscal responsibility – Policies not as explicitly defined.
- Should revisit at a future board meeting.

XIII. Upcoming Agenda Items- for DECEMBER 15th (rescheduled) Board Meeting

Renewing Trails Plan

Retreat follow-up

2010 Draft Budget

Policy on what requires a board vote

Adjourned ~9:20